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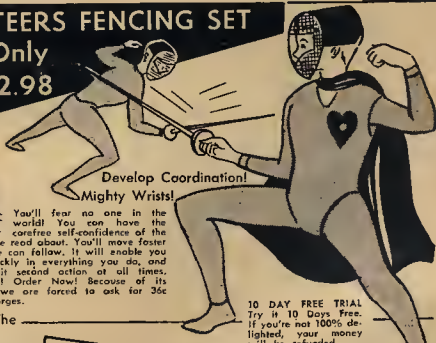
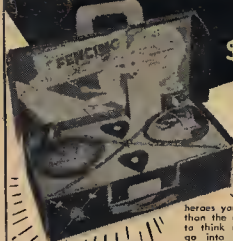
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THINK YOU'VE READ OFFBEAT STORIES BEFORE? WELL, HERE'S ONE THAT'LL THRILL YOU ALL THE WAY FROM PLANET EARTH TO...UH-UH! WE WON'T GIVE THAT AWAY YET! IT'S ALL ABOUT THE AMAZING THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO MIKE STEVENSON, THE MAN WHO TRIED TO TRADE HIS WASHING-MACHINE FOR A STAR...THE MAN WHOSE STRANGE COMPLAINT WAS...

9 KEEP DREAMING of GRANDPA!



I'M MIKE STEVENSON, READER--AND THIS IS **GRANDPA**! I DON'T CARE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HIM...I **LIKED** THE OLD GOGGER! OF COURSE, I ONLY KNEW HIM AS A KID...HE DIED MANY YEARS AGO...BUT LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT HIM WHEN I KNEW HIM!



I DIDN'T GET TO VISIT HIM VERY OFTEN...YOU SEE, THE FAMILY DIDN'T APPROVE OF HIM! BUT THERE WAS A CAMARADERIE BETWEEN US...



YES, GRANDPA WAS A SCIENTIST...WITH A TOUCH OF THE DREAMER ABOUT HIM...

SOMEDAY YOUR OLD GRANDPOPS GONNA BE THE FIRST TO LAND ON THAT MOON! I'LL BRING YOU BACK SOME OF THE GREEN CHEESE IT'S MADE OF...AND A SOUVENIR STRAIGHT FROM THE MAN IN THE MOON!



IT WASN'T ALL JUST IOLE CHATTER... FOR GRANDPA, I LEARNED LATER, WAS ONE OF THE EARLIEST OF ROCKET SCIENTISTS! SOMETIMES I'D CREEP OUT OF BED, AND SEE HIM AT WORK...

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME, BY NED, AND I'LL CRACK IT! BUT WITH MY NEW ANTI-FRICTION COEFFICIENT, THERE'S A DANGER THAT I MAY **OVER-SHOOT** THE MARK!

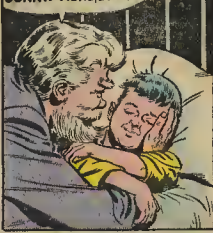
GRANDPA...



BACK TO BED, LITTLE FELLA! ---YOU REALLY **LOVE** YOUR GRANDPOP---NOT LIKE THE REST OF THE FAMILY! THEY RIDICULE ME, CALL ME CRAZY BECAUSE I WANT TO BE THE FIRST TO BUILD A ROCKET TO THE MOON!

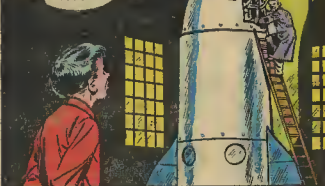


ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS, LITTLE MIKE! DON'T LET THEM MAKE YOU A MONEY-GRABBER WHO CARES ONLY FOR **PRACTICAL** THINGS! IF YOU DO, NO MATTER WHERE I AM, I'LL COME BACK AND RAISE **CONNECTIONS**, SEE?



THAT WAS ONE THING YOU HAD TO GIVE GRANDPA CREDIT FOR---HE FOLLOWED HIS DREAMS, ALL RIGHT! AND GRADUALLY, HIS "CRAZY INVENTION" TOOK SHAPE---

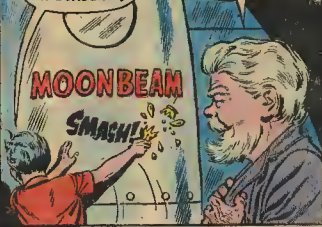
IT'S GOIN' BETTERR I DARED HOPE! WITH MY NEW MOTIVE POWER, I'M BEGINNIN' TO WONDER ABOUT THE MOON ---WONDER IF SHE'LL **STOP** THERE!



I STILL REMEMBER THE ROCKET'S CHRISTENING, AND HOW EXCITED I WAS---

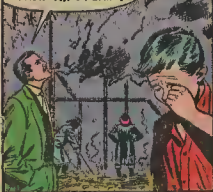
WITH THIS BOTTLE OF GODA POP, I CHRISTEN THEE **MOONBEAM**!

SHE'S MY WAGON ---AND IF SHE MISSES THE MOON, I'LL HITCH HER TO A **STAR**!



THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW GRANDPA ALIVE! THERE'D BEEN A BLAZE OF LIGHT WHICH LEFT HIS LABORATORY A CHARRED MASS AND THE **MOONBEAM** WAS GONE!

WELL, I GUESS HE'S FINALLY BLOWN HIMSELF UP! IT'S A CINCH WE'LL NEVER HEAR FROM **HIM** AGAIN!



AND WE DIDN'T! I KNEW THAT HE WAS DEAD, AND I MISSED HIM! BUT MY FAMILY SHOWED NO ADMIRATION FOR HIM FOR HAVING GIVEN HIS LIFE TO SCIENCE! INSTEAD---

HE MIGHT HAVE LEFT US ALL WELL PROVIDED FOR, IF HE HADN'T WASTED EVERY CENT ON THAT RIDICULOUS NONSENSE! THE **MOONBEAM**---**BOSH**! LET THIS BE A **LESSON** TO YOU, MICHAEL! NEVER BE LIKE YOUR GRANDFATHER---BE **PRACTICAL**!



THEY GAVE ME A PRACTICAL BRINGING-UP---EVEN ENCOURAGING MY INTEREST IN SCIENCE BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT **PRACTICALLY** APPLIED, IT MIGHT PAY OFF HIGH IN TODAY'S WORLD! THEY WERE PROUD OF MY PROGRESS---

---AND IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO AWARD THE HARKNESS MEDAL FOR SCIENCE STUDIES TO **MICHAEL STEVENSON**!



I'D ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT INVENTING THINGS, SO THEY SET ME UP IN A SMALL LAB AND SAID **PRODUCE!** AND WHENEVER I WAS TEMPTED BY THEORY OR PURE SCIENCE...

REMEMBER YOUR **GRANDFATHER, MICHAEL!**

REMEMBER HOW MUCH WE INVESTED IN YOUR EDUCATION AND THIS LABORATORY, SON!

REMEMBER THAT MY MAN MUST BE **PRACTICAL, DARLING!**

THE GIRL SHE WAS **HORTENSE GARGAN**, THE RICHEST IN TOWN! THEY TOLD ME HOW LUCKY I WAS TO HAVE MADE SUCH A CATCH... BUT SOMETIMES I WONDERED WHO'D DONE THE CATCHING!

BEFORE WE ANNOUNCE OUR ENGAGEMENT, JUST KEEP IN MIND THAT EVERYBODY ASSURED ME OF WHAT A GREAT INVENTOR YOU'D MAKE! WELL... **WHERE'S YOUR INVENTION?**

THEY HOUNDED ME, BADGERED ME! I COULDN'T ADMIT THAT TO PERMITTED MYSELF TO GET INTERESTED IN AN EXPERIMENTAL SOURCE OF ENERGY...

HOW CAN I FACE THEM... WHAT WOULD A THING LIKE THIS NEW **ROTOR** MEAN TO THEM? THEORETICALLY, IT'S A TRIUMPH... BUT **PRACTICALLY...**

I SURRENDERED TO PRACTICALITY, AND MY NEW **ROTOR** BECAME...

...THE **LITTLE WONDER MIRACLE ROTARY DISHWASHER**... WHICH GETS DISHES REALLY CLEAN! THE SECRET IS A HIGH-SPEED ROTOR WHICH PRODUCES TRULY MAGNIFICENT SUDS!

HURRAH!

THAT VERY NIGHT CAME MY ENGAGEMENT PARTY! I WAS SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD... I SUPPOSE...

...AND WHEN A MAN CAN COME UP HOT ONLY WITH THE **LITTLE WONDER MIRACLE ROTARY DISHWASHER**, BUT **HORTENSE GARGAN** TO BOOT... I MEAN... WELL, IS HE A SUCCESS OR ISN'T HE?

HURRAH FOR MIKE!

WHEN I WENT TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT, IT WAS SO STRANGE, RESTLESS DREAMS! THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT **GRANDPA** APPEARED...

SO YOU THINK YOU'VE MADE THE GRADE, EH? INVENTOR OF A DISH-WASHING MACHINE... **THAT'S A LAUGH!** AFTER YOU'RE GONE, KNOW WHAT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO SAY ABOUT YOU? **'MIKE STEVENSON, WHO CUT DOWN ON DISHPAN HANDS!'**

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU EVER DID THAT WAS SO MUCH! YOU AND YOUR **MOONBEAM**... I'LL BET SHE HARDLY EVEN CLEARED THE ROOFTOPS!

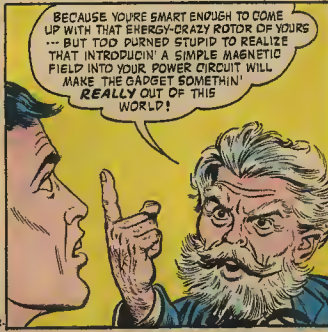
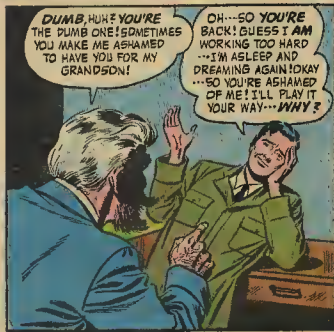
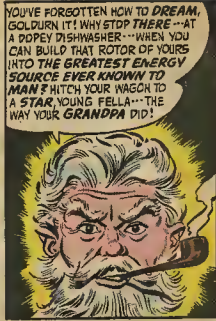
IF YOU ONLY KNEW! IF YOU ONLY KNEW!

I HAD TO LAUGH IT OFF... WASN'T IT JUST A CRAZY DREAM? I HAD TO FORGET **GRANDPA**, FOR I WAS COMMITTED TO MY PATH!

JUST TELL ME ANYTHING OUR READERS MAY WANT TO KNOW!

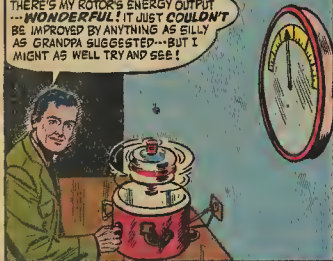
WELL, OUR... OUR PLANS ARE TO TURN OUT 1,000 DISHWASHERS A DAY... AND WE HAVE A NEW SLOGAN... **"WITH THE LITTLE WONDER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WASH... JUST WASHY!"**

MICHAEL IS GOING TO BECOME AN INDUSTRIAL PRINCE!

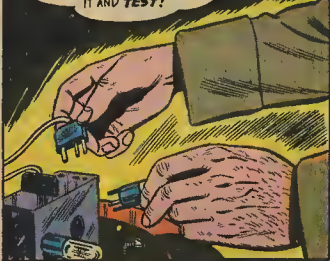


I AWOKE, FEELING THAT THIS WAS GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH! BUT GRANDPA'S SUGGESTION KEPT PLAGUING ME...UNTIL I DETERMINED TO GET IT OUT OF MY SYSTEM!

THERE'S MY ROTOR'S ENERGY OUTPUT...**WONDERFUL!** IT JUST COULDN'T BE IMPROVED BY ANYTHING AS SILLY AS GRANDPA SUGGESTED...BUT I MIGHT AS WELL TRY AND SEE!

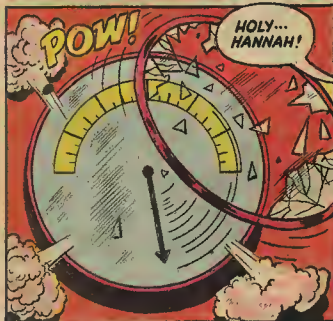


HOW JERKY CAN A GUY BE PAYING THAT MUCH ATTENTION TO A **DREAM?** BUT IT'S DONE...NOW TO REASSEMBLE IT AND **TEST!**



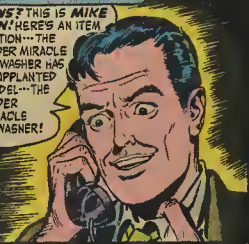
POW!

HOLY...
HANNAH!



I KNEW I HAD SOMETHING **STUPENDOUS** NOW, AND I TRIED TO ASSURE MYSELF THAT IT WAS MY OWN IDEA...FOR HADN'T IT COME OUT OF MY SUBCONSCIOUS, WHERE ALL DREAMS ORIGINATE? I WASN'T EVEN GOING TO THINK OF GRANDPA AGAIN...AND TO PROVE IT...

DAILY NEWS? THIS IS **MIKE STEVENSON!** HERE'S AN ITEM FOR PUBLICATION...THE **LITTLE WONDER MIRACLE ROTARY DISHWASHER** HAS NOW BEEN SUPPLANTED BY A NEW MODEL...THE **LITTLE WONDER SUPER MIRACLE ROTARY DISHWASHER!**



I WAS CONGRATULATING MYSELF SMUGLY AS I LEFT THE LAB...LOST IN SELF-SATISFIED THOUGHTS...

WELL, I CERTAINLY SHOWED GRANDPA...OH, WHAT SORT OF NONSENSE AM I TALKING, ANYWAY?

LOOK
OUT!



SO NOW YOU'RE **HERE!** HAVEN'T YOU CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE?

HHMM...
DELIRIOUS, I'M
AFRAID!



OF COURSE THEY'D THINK THAT--AFTER ALL, THEY COULDN'T SEE MY DREAM!

WISE GUY, HUH? JUST HAD TO SHOW ME! WELL, YOU GOT WHAT WAS COMIN' TO YOU--AND NOW I'M GONNA SHOW YOU!



HEY! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? I CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE--THIS IS A HOSPITAL! BESIDES, I HAVEN'T GOT MY CLOTHES ON--

NEVER MIND! JUST HANG ON!



H-HELP!

AW, PIPE DOWN! GUESS THEY DON'T MAKE YOUNG UNS ANYMORE LIKE WHEN I WAS A YOUNG UN!



I'LL FALL! I'LL BE KILLED! I'LL CATCH COLD! I'LL--

LOOK, BUB, YOUR GRANDPA'S ALWAYS BEEN A MAN OF HIS WORD, RIGHT? THEN QUIT WORRYIN'--OR SO HELP ME, I'LL WALLOP YOU!



UP, UP WE WENT--I SUPPOSE I FORGOT TO BE SCARED--

IT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH JUST TO DREAM OF YOU, GRANDPA--NOW LOOK WHAT I'M DREAMING!

BUB, YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET! LOOK AHEAD!



WHY--IT'S THE MOON! WAS IT MADE OF GREEN CHEESE--AND NOW ABOUT THAT SOUVENIR YOU WERE ONCE GOING TO BRING ME FROM THE MAN IN THE MOON?

STOP POKIN' FUN AT AN OLD MAN, YOU JACKANAPES! ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS GENSEE THE CALL OF SPACE--THE MAGIC OF THE INFINITE--THE FLASHING STARS AND BLAZING METEORS! DOESN'T IT ALL DO SOMETHIN' TO YOU?



YES--IT DID! AND NOW THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE GRANDPA WANTED ME TO SEE--A STRANGE AND LOVELY PLANET--

URANUS! FIX IT IN YOUR MIND, SON! THERE'S SOMETHIN' THE WORLD NEEDS DESPERATELY--AND IT'S HERE! SOMETHIN' THAT'S CALLIN' TO YOU--



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

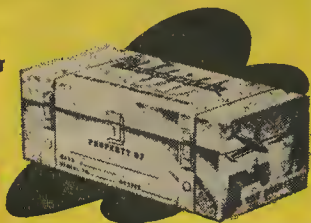


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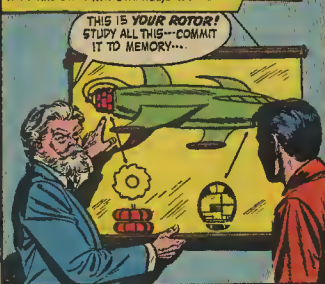


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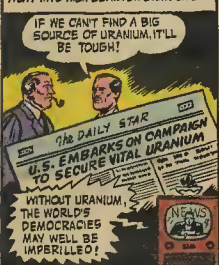
THEN, SUDDENLY--THE WAY DREAMS GO--WE WERE BACK IN MY LABORATORY! GRANDPA WAS PULLING DOWN A CHART, BUT WHAT WAS ON IT WAS STRANGE, UNFAMILIAR--



HIS FACE FADED OUT--AND OTHERS FADED IN! I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL--I'D AWAKENED FROM MY DREAM--



YES, I WAS COMPLETELY RECOVERED! IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ATOMIC DEFENSE PROGRAM WENT INTO HIGH GEAR! ON EVERY SIDE--



AND AT A SCIENTIFIC MEETING--

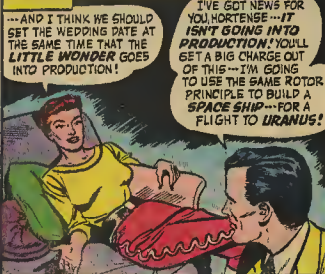
IT IS BELIEVED THAT URANIUM IS PRESENT IN HUGE QUANTITIES ON THE PLANET URANUS! IF ONLY SOME METHOD WERE DEvised TO SPAN SPACE AND BRING A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY BACK TO EARTH, AMERICA AND ITS ALLIES COULD REST EASY!



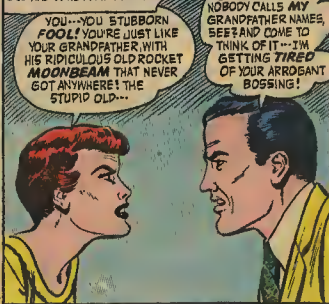
I'D BEEN LISTENING TO HIS SPEECH--AND DOODLING! AND SUDDENLY I REALIZED WHAT I'D DRAWN!



I DIDN'T NEED ANY DREAM NOW! I KNEW THE NEED--AND MY RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS MY COUNTRY! I WAS AWAKE--AT LAST!



WE HAD IT HOT AND HEAVY--



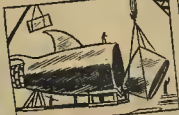
OF COURSE, SHE THREW MY RING RIGHT IN MY FACE---AND I WAS GLAD OF IT! I WAS FREE NOW---FREE TO THROW MYSELF FEVERISHLY INTO MY GREAT NEW PROJECT!

ALL THE MONEY I COULD RAISE AND BORROW HAS GONE INTO THIS SPACESHIP! WELL SEE IF THIS ONE WON'T GO FURTHER THAN THE MOONBEAM, GRANDPA!



SLOWLY, THE GREAT ROCKET TOOK SHAPE! OF COURSE, THE NEWSPAPERS HAD A FIELD DAY---

EXTRA The DAILY JOURNAL EXTRA
"FLYING DISHWASHER"
HALF-COMplete



WILL SHE GO UP?

BUT RIDICULE WASN'T FAZING ME! IF THEY WANTED TO CALL IT FLYING DISHWASHER, IT WAS ALL RIGHT WITH ME! I FOUND NO DIFFICULTY IN RAISING A CREW OF SCIENTISTS, WHO WERE IMPRESSED WITH MY CRAFT---AND WHEN DEPARTURE TIME CAME---

DO YOU THINK IT'LL GO UP?

MADAM, IN ABOUT 14 SECONDS... JUST WATCH!



TAKEOFF!



SHE WAS WORKING LIKE A CHARM, THE MILES DROPPING BEHIND AT TERRIFIC SPEED! WE WHIZZED PAST THE MOON IN A MIGHTY RUSH---



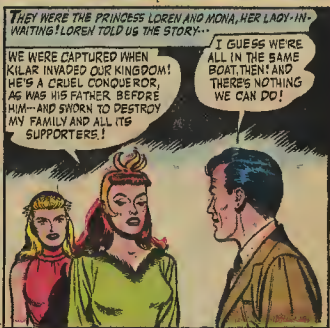
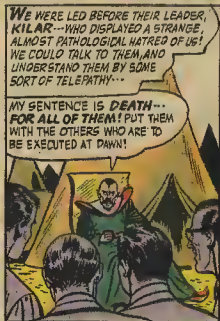
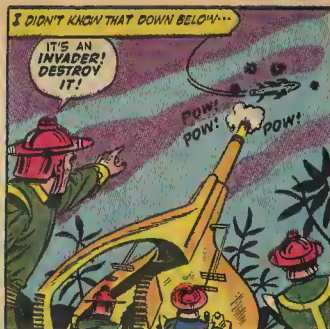
IT'S WONDERFUL, THE EASE WITH WHICH YOU SET THE CONTROLS AND GUIDE YOUR COURSE! IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE!

SOMETIMES I---I WONDER MYSELF!



FINALLY WE WERE THERE---URANUS---AND IT WAS THE SAME PLANET I'D SEEN IN MY DREAM!





WHAT A FIX TO BE IN! I FELL ASLEEP REPROACHING GRANDPA...

YOU GOT ME INTO THIS FIX, GRANDPA...

AND YOU'RE GONNA JUST TAKE IT? WHAT ARE YOU... A MAN OR A MOUSE? SCRAM OUT OF HERE PRONTO... AND REMEMBER YOU'VE GOT THE ROTOR! A READY-MADE ATOM-SMASHER... WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT? DOES AN OLD FELLA HAFTA TELL YOU EVERYTHING?

THAT DREAM... COULD IT HAVE MEANT ANYTHING? THIS IS THE PLACE FOR AN ATOM-SMASHER ALL RIGHT, BECAUSE THEY USE URANIUM! BUT WHAT DID HE MEAN ABOUT THE ROTOR BEING A READY-MADE ATOM-SMASHER?

HEY... I'VE GOT IT! SUPPOSE I USE IT TO SPLIT ATOMS BY THE CENTRIFUGAL MOTION OF ITS SPINNING?

I HAD SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK, SO I WOKE THE GIRLS...

WHY WE USE URANIUM IN LIQUID FORM AS A FUEL! YOU CAN GET SOME FROM ANY OF THE VEHICLES!

IF WE WAIT FOR DAWN, WE'RE DONE FOR! WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT RIGHT NOW!

I WAITED FOR THE GUARD TO COME BY ON HIS APPOINTED ROUNDS... AND THEN...

QUICK... GET HIS KEYS!

AMAZING! SUCH COURAGE... AND STRENGTH!

WE GOT OUT OF THERE FAST--AND THEN SPOTTED SOME LITTLE SPACE VEHICLES THAT LOOKED LIKE FLYING MOTORCYCLES! THE SENTRIES HAD BEEN DOZING... IT WASN'T HARD TO SURPRISE THEM...

GET 'EM OUT OF THE WAY FAST... THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!

THEN... IN A SURGE OF AIRBORNE SPEED...

WE'VE MADE IT!

I HAD TAKEN OFF LAST, WHICH WAS UNFORTUNATE...FOR ME! IT HAD GIVEN ONE OF THE SENTRIES JUST TIME ENOUGH TO RECOVER...



BUT THEN CAME SUDDEN DELIVERANCE, OUT OF THE SKY...



I HAD JUST ENOUGH STRENGTH TO GRAB...AND HANG ON...



WE MADE IT BACK TO THE FLYING DISHWASHER, AND LOADED ITS TANKS WITH THE URANIUM FUEL FROM THOSE SPACE MOTORCYCLES...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TAKE OFF FOR YOUR OWN WORLD...AFTER ALL YOU'VE ESCAPED FROM KILAR AND HIS ARMY!

ER...JUST LET'S SAY THAT GRANOPA WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED IT THAT WAY! WE'VE HAD CONQUERORS ON EARTH TOO...ALL THE WAY FROM HANNIBAL TO HITLER...AND WE KNOW THEY'VE GOT TO BE DEALT WITH!



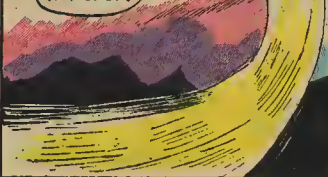
WE TOOK OFF...AND WITHIN A MOMENT, WE WERE OVER KILAR'S INVADING HORDE...

OKAY! NOW LET'S SEE IF A DISHWASHER CAN TURN INTO AN ATOM-SMASHER!



I GUNNED THE MOTORS...AND THE MIGHTY ROTOR REVVED TO SUPERHUMAN SPEED! THAT AWFUL ROARING...IT WAS DISINTEGRATING URANIUM SHOOTING FROM THE TUBES IN A FIERY, EXPLOSIVE WAVE THAT MOWED THROUGH KILAR'S ARMY LIKE A GIANT SCYTHE!

FOR POOR GRANOPA AND THE "MOONBEAM" ...THAT NEVER GOT ANYPLACE!



WHEN I RESTORED PRINCESS LOREN TO HER FATHER'S KINGDOM...

RICH URANIUM ORE--BUT IT ISN'T SUFFICIENT REWARD FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, LOREN! WHY, THERE'S ENOUGH THERE TO SAFEGUARD THE EARTH'S DEMOCRACIES FOR CENTURIES!



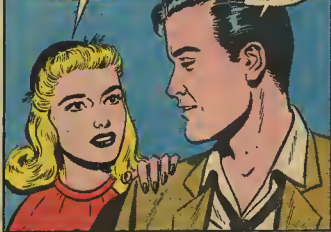
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
THERE'S NO REWARD
TOO GREAT FOR
SUCH A MAN AS YOU
...NOT EVEN THE
DAUGHTER OF
A KING!

I---I APPRECIATE THE
HONOR! TO TELL YOU THE
TRUTH, IF YOU DIDN'T LOOK
SO MUCH LIKE A GIRL
BACK HOME NAMED
HORTENSE GARGAN---



I OVERHEARD, MIKE...
AND I---I'M **AMAZED!**
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU COULD HAVE
EVER REGISTED THE
PRINCESS---

BECAUSE THERE WAS
SOMEONE **ELSE!** SOME-
ONE SIMPLE, UNASSUMING,
LOYAL AND LOVELY WHO
REALLY CAPTURED MY
HEART! **YOU,**
MONA!



PERHAPS MY STORY SHOULD HAVE
ENDED HERE... BUT THERE WAS ONE
MORE THING! IT STARTED WITH THE
SIMPLE QUESTION I ASKED MONA
BEFORE WE TOOK OFF FOR HER
NEW HOME ON EARTH---

BY THE WAY, MONA,
THERE WAS SOMETHING
I'D BEEN MEANING TO
ASK YOU! HOW COULD
KILAR CONDEMNED
ME AND MY FRIENDS
TO **DEATH?** WHY'D
HE HAVE IT IN FOR
US SO MUCH?

BECAUSE
OF HIS FATHER
...**BROZAN**...
WHO ALSO HAD
DREAMS OF
CONQUEST!
ONCE, MANY YEARS
AGO, HE HAD BEEN
ON THE VERGE OF
A SUCCESSFUL
INVASION OF OUR
KINGDOM---



HE WAS LEADING THE ONSET IN HIS
HUGE, WINGED BATTLESHIP... WHEN
SUDDENLY A **STRANGE CRAFT**
DARTED OUT OF SPACE! CRUELLY,
BROZAN ATTACKED... ONLY TO BE
SHOT DOWN! BUT THE
GALLANT FIGHT AGAINST
ODDS HAD BEEN TOO
MUCH FOR THE BRAVE
STRANGER---

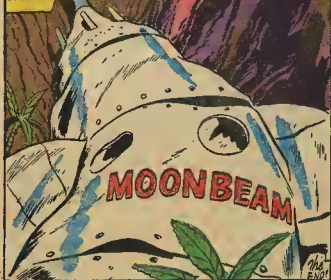


HE CRASHED... KILLED ON
THE SOIL OF URANUS! BUT
WE KEPT THE WRECKAGE
OF HIS SPACE SHIP IN AN
HONORED SPOT--A SHRINE
TO THE MAN WHO SAVED
US EVEN AS **YOU** DID
YEARS LATER! WOULD
YOU LIKE TO SEE IT
BEFORE WE
DEPART?

I SURE **WOULD!**
... WONDER WHAT
PLANET HE COULD
HAVE COME FROM?



SHE TOOK ME TO A NEARBY HOLLOW IN THE HILLS, CAREFULLY
FENCED IN BY GOLDEN POSTS! AND LOOKING DOWN INTO IT, I
SAW---



BLACK BART'S TREASURE

GLORIA DANVERS was paying the price for the independence she'd shown towards her guardian, old Alexander Grant. In his lifetime, the crabbed old miser had been selfish and demanding, but she'd always stood up to him, battling for her rights. She'd left it for others to fawn on him for his wealth, and none had fawned more than Clara, his niece. That was why, upon his death, he had left all his money and property to Clara. "To my word, Gloria Danvers," he had written, "I leave Black Bart's treasure, and all she need do is find it!" It was a grim, satirical joke. Black Bart had been an early ancestor, and reputedly a pirate, who, it was rumored, had hidden his great store of wealth somewhere within Grant Manor, the ancient family hall within which the Grants still lived. Successive generations had searched for it fruitlessly, before conceding that the story of the vast treasure was a mere tall tale. This, then, was what Gloria had inherited. Triumphant, Clara moved into the old manor, and lost no time in letting Gloria know that she wasn't wanted. And so Gloria arranged to move out the following week, giving herself only enough time to pack her possessions.

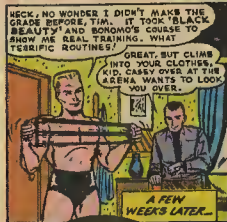
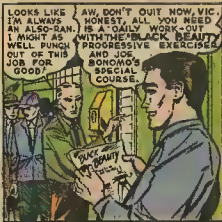
On the night before Gloria was scheduled to leave, Clara gave a gala costume ball, to celebrate her taking over. The only reason why Gloria even attended was that independence of hers we've mentioned...she wasn't going to show anybody that Clara had gotten her down! The big ballroom was a swirling and colorful mass of dancers in every conceivable costume. It was as the evening was drawing to a close that she found herself in the arms of a partner attired as a pirate. He was handsome in a reckless sort of fashion, with flaming red hair and dark, deepset

eyes. She felt strangely drawn to him...so much so that she hardly resented him talking about her guardian's satiric bequest to her. "Trouble is you let yourself get discouraged too easily...just because the others failed", he said. "Now, if I had been Black Bart, I'd have hidden my treasure somewhere behind all that heavy panelling in the study...and I'd cover the spot with my own picture!"

Later, she couldn't fall asleep for thinking of him, and when she finally dropped off, it was to dreams of a pirate with flaming red hair and dark, deepset eyes saying "If I had been Black Bart...my treasure...behind panelling in the study...my own picture!" It woke her with a start. It was ridiculous, of course, but why not take a look? Noiselessly, she descended to the study, the walls of which were adorned with portraits of ancestors dead and gone. There...that must be the pirate, Black Bart! Suddenly she recoiled, for the man in the picture was handsome in a reckless sort of fashion, with flaming red hair and dark, deepset eyes...the very man she had danced with! No, it was ridiculous...it was just that he must have made himself up with the portrait as a model! She knew she was being a fool as she removed the big picture, her hands darting over the surface of the heavy panelling beneath. Suddenly there came the twang of an ancient spring, and a panel creaked slowly open. And inside there was gold, jewels...a veritable king's ransom!

It all belonged to Gloria Danvers, by virtue of her guardian's will. Now do you explain this story? It's hard to say. Science would pooh-pooh any supernatural basis. So all we'll say is that there are stronger things in this world of ours than mortal man ever dreamed of!

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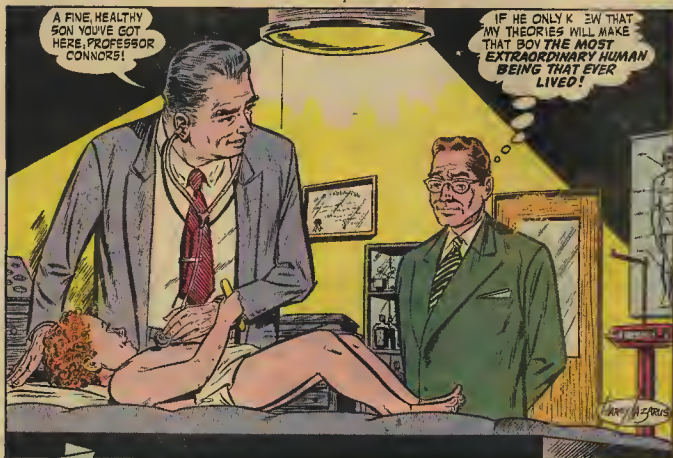
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THE GENIUS!



PROFESSOR ARTHUR CONNORS WAS A TOP CHEMIST, SPECIALIZING IN VITAMIN RESEARCH FOR A LARGE FOOD CONCERN! IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT A MAN IS ONLY WHAT HE EATS...AND FROM THIS THEORY STARTED A CHAIN OF EVENTS SO FANTASTIC THAT EVEN HE COULD HAVE NO IDEA OF THE TERRIFYING FORCES HE HAD UNLEASHED!



IT ALL BEGAN SHORTLY BEFORE HE WAS TO BECOME A FATHER...



BIG PLANS! WHAT WERE THEY?

AFTER A SON WAS BORN...

**PERFECTLY
SURE, MY
DEAR!**

IF I DIDN'T KNOW
YOU WERE AN EXPERT
ON THE SUBJECT, I'D
SAY YOU WERE A
CRACKPOT! THIS
BIZARRE FEEDING
SCHEDULE... COCONUT
CONCENTRATE IN-
STEAD OF MILK...
ARE YOU SURE
YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING?

**WHEN JIMMY CONNORS WAS SEVEN
YEARS OLD...**

DON'T YOU THINK
WE SHOULD STOP
YOUR CRAZY PLAN?
IT DOESN'T SEEM
TO BE DOING ANY
SPECIAL GOOD...
AND IT'S KEEPING
US BROKE!

IT'S TRUE HIS
HEIGHT AND
WEIGHT ARE
ONLY SLIGHTLY
ABOVE NORMAL
...BUT WE'VE
GOT TO CARRY
ON!

**EXCEPT FOR HIS UNUSUAL HEALTH, THE
EXPERIMENT HAD SHOWN NO NOTEWORTHY
RESULT! THE FATHER WAS KEENLY DIS-
APPOINTED WHEN THE LAD WAS READY
FOR COLLEGE...**

TAKE GOOD CARE
OF YOURSELF,
JIM...

I... I'VE FAILED!
ALL HE HAS IS A
GOOD MEMORY
...BUT NOT EVEN
AS GOOD AS
MINE!

THE CHILD'S DIET INCLUDED MANY STRANGE FOODS...

I'VE NEVER EVEN
HEARD OF THE STUFF
YOU WANT, MRS. CONNORS!
BETTER TRY A **DRUG
STORE!**

THANK YOU...
I SHOULD HAVE
THOUGHT OF
THAT!

**AT COLLEGE HE PROVED A POPULAR
AND NORMAL STUDENT... EXCEPT FOR
ONE PECULIARITY...**

WHAT'S WITH
THIS STRANGE
STUFF YOU EAT?
DON'T YOU LIKE
**NORMAL
FOOD?**

MY POP'S A
BUG ON THE
SUBJECT! HE
MADE ME
PROMISE TO
FOLLOW A
CERTAIN
DIET!

**IT WAS TOWARD THE END OF HIS FRESHMAN YEAR THAT JIM
NOTICED A SUDDEN INCREASE IN HIS MENTAL POWERS...**

THAT'S FUNNY...
I SEEM TO BE
ABLE TO REMEMBER
EVERYTHING I READ...
WORD FOR WORD!
AS IF MY MIND WERE
**PHOTOGRAPHING
THE PAGE!**

**AT HOME DURING THE CHRISTMAS VACATION, HE TOLD
HIS FATHER EVERYTHING...**

I DON'T GET IT, DAD
...I TELL YOU, I CAN
MEMORIZE A **WHOLE
BOOK!** I DON'T FORGET
ANYTHING!

BUT THAT'S...
WONDERFUL! IT'S
TAKEN ALL THESE
YEARS FOR THE
DIET TO TAKE EFFECT
...THERE'S NO TELLING
WHAT WILL HAPPEN
FROM NOW ON!

THE PROCESS NOW SEEMED TO ACCELERATE--AND HIS TEACHERS PREDICTED A BRILLIANT FUTURE! IN HIS 50TH MORE YEAR, JIM TRIED OUT FOR THE FOOTBALL TEAM--

WE CAN USE A HUSKY LAD LIKE YOU! HERE, LET'S SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN KICK IT!

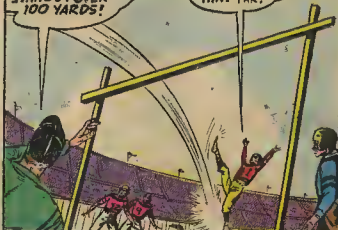
I NEVER PLAYED FOOTBALL BEFORE, COACH--BUT I'LL TRY!



HE SWUNG HIS LEG EASILY, BUT THE BOOMING CONTACT OF FOOT AND BALL COULD BE HEARD LIKE A THUNDER CLAP--

GREAT SCOTT! IT WENT--INTO THE STANDS! OVER 100 YARDS!

GOSH, I DIDN'T MEAN TO KICK IT THAT FAR!



IN HIS VERY FIRST YEAR, HE PROVED THE GREATEST BACK IN THE HISTORY OF THE SPORT--

HE'S SCORED AGAIN!

THAT BOY IS SHEER MURDER! THEY CAN'T STOP HIM!



EVERY TIME HE GOT HIS HANDS ON THE BALL IT WAS A TOUCHDOWN! HE WAS LIKE A JUGGERNAUT--

LOOK, JIM-- TAKE IT EASY! THERE ARE TOO MANY INJURIES ON THE OTHER SIDE!

I DON'T MEAN TO HURT ANYBODY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?



BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT SPEED, HE WAS ADVISED TO TRY OUT FOR THE TRACK TEAM--

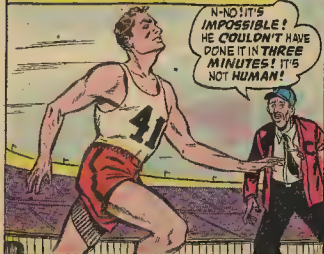
I'LL CLOCK YOU IN THE MILE! ARE YOU READY?

READY!

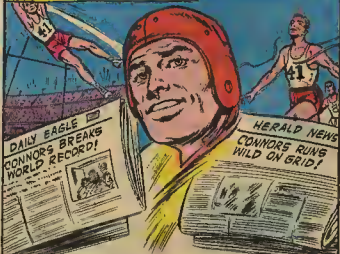


HIS EASY, LOPING STRIDE SEEMED TO GOBBLE UP DISTANCE! THEN, CLOSING WITH A BURST OF SPEED--

N-NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT IN THREE MINUTES! IT'S NOT HUMAN!



THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS SOON TO LEARN OF HIS FABULOUS ATHLETIC EXPLOITS--

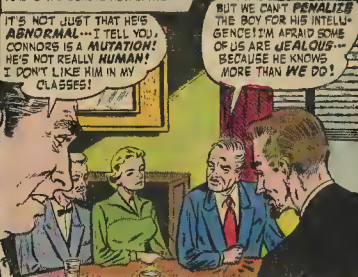


JIM HARDLY KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HIM! EVERY DAY WIDENED THE GAP BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS CLASSMATES...PEOPLE WERE NO LONGER COMFORTABLE WITH HIM...



THEY THINK I'M PECULIAR...AND I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE AN OUTCAST!

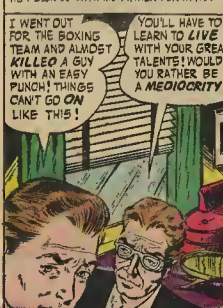
HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE WAS THE SUBJECT OF HEATED DISCUSSION AMONG THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES...



IT'S NOT JUST THAT HE'S ABNORMAL...I TELL YOU, CONNORS IS A MUTATION! HE'S NOT REALLY HUMAN! I DON'T LIKE HIM IN MY CLASSES!

BUT WE CAN'T PENALIZE THE BOY FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE! I'M AFRAID SOME OF US ARE JEALOUS... BECAUSE HE KNOWS MORE THAN WE DO!

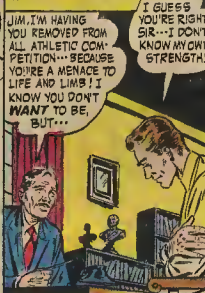
JIM BEGAN TO FEEL CUT OFF FROM HUMAN CONTACT--AS IF A HUGE CHASM YAWNED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND OTHERS! HE PLEADED WITH HIS FATHER FOR ADVICE...



I WENT OUT FOR THE BOXING TEAM AND ALMOST KILLED A GUY WITH AN EASY PUNCH! THINGS CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!

YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH YOUR GREAT TALENTS! WOULD YOU RATHER BE A MEDIOCRITY?

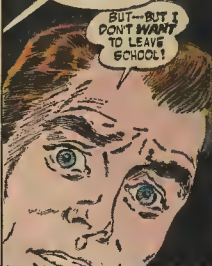
THE TRUTH WAS...MEDIOCRITY WAS JUST WHAT HE WANTED! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GREAT BLISS TO BE AN ORDINARY PERSON! WHEN HE RETURNED TO SCHOOL...



JIM, I'M HAVING YOU REMOVED FROM ALL ATHLETIC COMPETITION... BECAUSE YOU'RE A MENACE TO LIFE AND LIMB! I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO BE, BUT...

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR...I DON'T KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH!

THAT'S NOT ALL! WE'VE DECIDED TO GRANT YOU A DIPLOMA NOW! AFTER ALL, SINCE YOU MEMORIZED THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO LEARN!



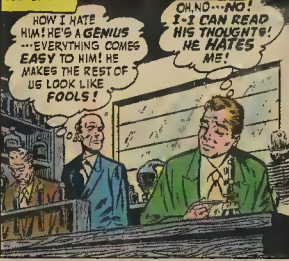
BUT--BUT I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE SCHOOL!

BACK IN HIS DORMITORY ROOM, HE WEPT LIKE A CHILD...



I--I'M NOT GETTING ANY FUN OUT OF LIFE! WHAT'S THE PLEASURE IN SPORT--IF THERE'S NO COMPETITION? WHAT'LL I DO FOR FRIENDS? PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO ASSOCIATE WITH A FREAK!

JIM GOT A JOB AS A BIOLOGIST, HIS FAVORITE SUBJECT! EVERYTHING WAS GOING WELL...WHEN SUDDENLY...



HOW I HATE HIM! HE'S A GENIUS...EVERYTHING COMES EASY TO HIM! HE MAKES THE REST OF US LOOK LIKE FOOLS!

OH, NO...NO! I--I CAN READ HIS THOUGHTS! HE HATES ME!

IT HAD COME SUDDENLY...THIS NEW MIND-READING ABILITY...AND IT MADE HIS LIFE UNBEARABLE! HE WENT INTO FITS OF UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE...

IT'S A CURSE! YOU'VE DESTROYED ME, FATHER... I'M UNFIT FOR HUMAN SOCIETY!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, JIM! I'VE SUCCEEDED BEYOND MY WILDEST HOPES! WHO KNOWS WHAT NEW POWER YOU MAY YET ACHIEVE?



CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND I DON'T WANT TO BE DIFFERENT? I WANT TO LIVE NORMALLY!

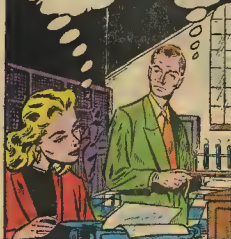
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW, SON! WITH THE BRAIN YOU HAVE, YOU CAN DO UNTOLD GOOD FOR CIVILIZATION!



WITH INCREASING LONELINESS, HE GREW INCREASINGLY BITTER! HE HARDLY SPOKE TO ANYONE AT THE LABORATORIES...

GOSH, HE'S SURE HANDSOME! I WISH HE WEREN'T SO ALOOF... I'D LIKE TO KNOW HIM BETTER!

THAT GIRL... SHE'S THINKING ABOUT ME!



ALWAYS TERRIBLY SHY, HE SUM-MONED UP HIS COURAGE...

I WAS WONDERING... IF... YOU'D GO OUT WITH ME?

WHY, I'D JUST LOVE TO!



STELLA FRASER WAS A CHARMING AND LOVELY GIRL... AND HE WANTED DESPERATELY FOR HER TO ENJOY HERSELF WITH HIM...

YOU'VE GOT QUITE A REPUTATION AT THE LAB, JIM... PEOPLE CALL YOU THE MAD GENIUS!

I CAN'T HELP MY INTELLECT... BUT I WANT PEOPLE TO LIKE ME! I WANT YOU TO LIKE ME!



IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS THERE WAS A MARKED CHANGE IN HIS MANNER...

WELL, WELL! YOU'RE CERTAINLY IN HIGH SPIRITS THESE DAYS!

GOT A DATE WITH STELLA TONIGHT! I'M CRAZY ABOUT HER, MOM... I'M GOING TO ASK HER TO MARRY ME!

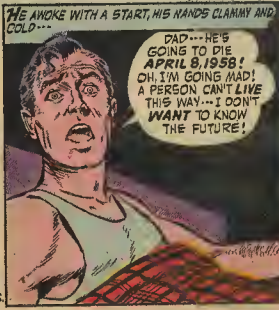
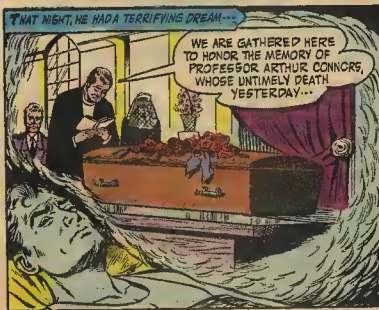
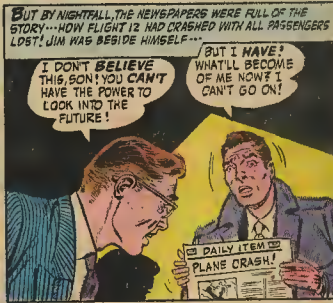
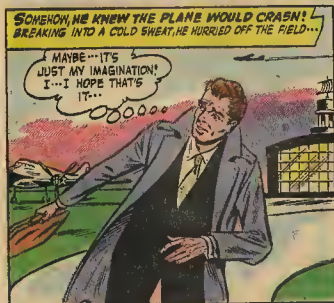
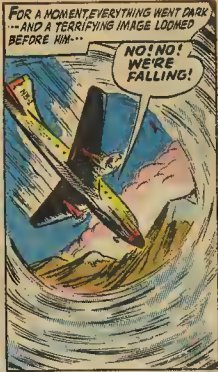


BUT HE NEVER GOT THE CHANCE...

I REALLY SHOULDN'T SEE SO MUCH OF HIM! I DON'T KNOW, I JUST DON'T ENJOY MYSELF! WHAT HE NEEDS IS A GIRL LIKE HIMSELF... A GENIUS! AROUND HIM I FEEL LIKE A DOPE!

SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT I CAN READ HER THOUGHTS! HOW I WISH I COULDN'T!



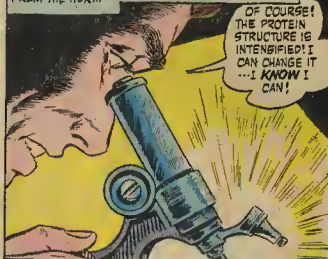


HE WAS AT HIS WITS' END...WHEN SUDDENLY...



GREAT SCOTT,
WHAT A FOOL I'VE
BEEN! IF I'M SUCH A GENIUS
...I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO
REVERSE THE PROCESS
MY FATHER STARTED!

FROM THAT MOMENT ON, HE WAS A DEDICATED MAN! HE
WORKED FEVERISHLY DAY AND NIGHT, ANALYZING SPECIMENS
OF HIS BLOOD AND TISSUE TO FIND ANY DIFFERENCE
FROM THE NORM...



OF COURSE!
THE PROTEIN
STRUCTURE IS
INTENSIFIED! I
CAN CHANGE IT
...I KNOW I
CAN!

SIX MONTHS OF SLAVISH TOIL PASSED!
AT LAST, HE HAD ISOLATED A POWERFUL
SOLUTION...

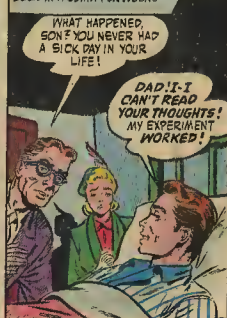
IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE
RIGHT, THIS CONCENTRATE WILL
STRIP ME OF MY POWERS...MAKE
ME AN ORDINARY MAN! AND IF
I'M WRONG...? BUT I'VE GOT
TO TAKE THE CHANCE!



THE ROOM SPUN CRAZILY AROUND
HIM AT THE FIRST SWALLOW! HE
FELT HIMSELF FLUNG INTO A VAST,
WHIRLING ABYSS...FATHOMLESS AND
BLACK...



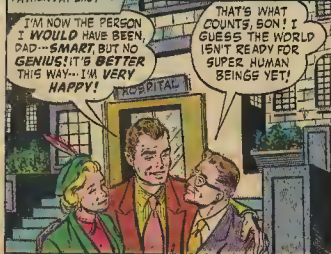
HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS IN A
HOSPITAL...NOT KNOWING THAT HE HAD
BEEN IN A COMA FOR WEEKS...



WHAT HAPPENED,
SON? YOU NEVER HAD
A SICK DAY IN YOUR
LIFE!

DAD! I-I
CAN'T READ
YOUR THOUGHTS!
MY EXPERIMENT
WORKED!

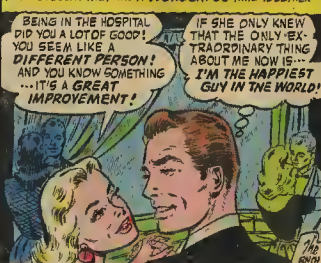
HIS RECOVERY WAS SLOW, AND IN THE FOLLOWING
WEEKS JIM EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO HIS DISAPPOINTED
FATHER! AT LAST...



I'M NOW THE PERSON
I WOULD HAVE BEEN,
DAD...SMART, BUT NO
GENIUS! IT'S BETTER
THIS WAY...I'M VERY
HAPPY!

THAT'S WHAT
COUNTS, SON! I
GUESS THE WORLD
ISN'T READY FOR
SUPER HUMAN
BEINGS YET!

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS HE DID WAS MAKE A DATE
WITH STELLA! THEY HAD A WONDERFUL TIME TOGETHER...



BEING IN THE HOSPITAL
DID YOU A LOT OF GOOD!
YOU SEEM LIKE A
DIFFERENT PERSON!
AND YOU KNOW SOMETHING
...IT'S A GREAT
IMPROVEMENT!

IF SHE ONLY KNEW
THAT THE ONLY EX-
TRAORDINARY THING
ABOUT ME NOW IS...
I'M THE HAPPIEST
GUY IN THE WORLD!

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RUSH

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EDITOR



MAILBAG SAMPLING! That's what we're giving over this month's space to, in the conviction that you'd like to know what readers are saying. We'd like to know your opinions, too, so how's about letting us

"Dear Editor:-

Just finished reading the swellest story ever published in any comic...*'The Many Lives of Mark Martin'*. They ought to make a movie out of that one! Congratulations to *'Adventures Into The Unknown'*!

...Henry R. Glass, New York, N. Y."

"Dear Editor:-

I liked *'Mystery Of The Sea'*, your leadoff feature in the November issue of *'Adventures Into The Unknown'*. That's because it's exciting and different... I'd never read anything just like it. Not so *'Strange Coin'*, which was more like the stories you used to run. But your mag still gets my vote as the best around!

...B. W. Adamson, Elyria, Ohio"

"Dear Editor:-

I'd like to get my two cents worth in to tell you that I've followed *'Adventures Into The Unknown'* from the very first issue up to the present. It was always good, but now it's a darned sight better. I like what you're doing with stories...the offbeat stuff, I mean! There's always something novel and interesting these days. Keep up the good work!

...Marianne Granet, New Orleans, La."

"Dear Editor:-

If anybody had ever told me that comics books could put pulps to shame, I'd have said they were crazy. But *'Adventures Into The Unknown'* is doing it. I'm still thinking about *'Coward In Outer Space'*...it was the best I've read in years!

...Albert Warkins, Phoenix, Ariz."

"Dear Editor:-

Just finished reading *'The many Lives of Mark Martin'* in the October issue of your *'Adventures Into The Unknown'*. Three cheers...and keep 'em rolling like that one!

...Edwin Bromberg, Chicago, Ill."

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 233)

OF ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN, published Monthly at St. Louis, Mo., for October 1, 1955.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Best Syndicated Features, Inc., 420 DeSoto Ave., St. Louis, Mo.; Editor, Richard E. Hughes, 120 West 183 St., New York, N.Y.; Managing editor, None; Business manager, Frederick H. Iger, 28 Sycamore Drive, Sands Point, N.Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) Best Syndicated Features, Inc., 420 DeSoto Ave., St. Louis, Mo.; Frederick H. Iger, 28 Sycamore Drive, Sands Point, N.Y.; H. Dorenfeld, 923 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

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(Signed) RICHARD E. HUGHES, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1955.

James S. Phair, Notary Public, State of New York.
(My commission expires March 30, 1957)

DR. HANS ULRICH HAD STUMBLED UPON ONE OF THE GREATEST DISCOVERIES IN THE HISTORY OF MAN! WITHIN THE LEAVES OF A RARE TROPICAL PLANT LAY A STRANGE POWER OF INCALCULABLE WORTH! BUT IT WAS THE DESTINY OF HIS GREEDY ASSISTANT TO REAP THE REWARDS, AND ALSO THE VENGEANCE OF...

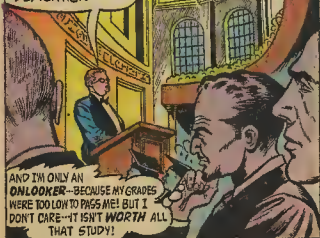
The SUMATRAN SEED!



THINK OF IT, KARL! AT ONE STROKE WE CAN DESTROY THE WORLD'S PHYSICAL ILLS! WE HOLD THE DESTINY OF MANKIND IN OUR HANDS!

GRADUATION DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA...

TODAY THE CLASS OF 1923 BECOME DOCTORS! IT IS A NOBLE CALLING, DEMANDING THE UTMOST OF PERSONAL SACRIFICE AND DEDICATION...



AND I'M ONLY AN ONLOOKER—BECAUSE MY GRADES WERE TOO LOW TO PASS ME! BUT I DON'T CARE—IT ISN'T WORTH ALL THAT STUDY!

AN SO KARL KASTORP LEFT THE UNIVERSITY AND WENT INTO BUSINESS! ALWAYS HE SOUGHT THE BIG MONEY... BUT TOO LAZY TO APPLY HIMSELF, HE WAS A FAILURE...

WHAT? NOT ONE CUSTOMER WAITING TO SEE ME? WHAT DO YOU OO... SCARE THEM AWAY?

MAYBE IF YOU'D WORK TO BUILD YOUR BUSINESS, IT WOULDN'T BE ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY!



WHEN HIS BUSINESS FAILED HE THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS AGAINST HIM...EVEN HIS FIANCÉE TIRED OF HIS WORTHLESSNESS...

YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A **DOCTOR**, DEDICATED TO AIDING HUMANITY, AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN **PROUD** OF YOU! BUT YOUR CHARACTER IS **BAD, KARL**...AND I THINK IT'S BEST TO END OUR ENGAGEMENT!

DO YOU THINK ME A FOOL? YOU ARE DESERTING ME FOR SOMEONE **RICHER!** BUT WAIT, SOME DAY THE WORLD WILL **BEG** FOR MY SERVICES!

NOW HE WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SECURE A JOB AS LABORATORY ASSISTANT TO THE RENOWNED PHYSICIAN, **DR. HANS ULRICH**...

YOU'RE CAPABLE ENOUGH IN THE LABORATORY, KASTORP! AND WHO KNOWS...PERHAPS I CAN TEACH YOU ENOUGH TO HELP YOU **MAKE** SOMETHING OF YOURSELF!

NO DOUBT, MERR DOCTOR...YOU ARE SO **VERY** SUCCESSFUL! MAY I ASK WHAT **THOSE** ARE...THEY LOOK LIKE **SEEDS!**

BOTANY IS MY **HOBBY**...IT HELPS ME IN MY WORK! FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD I RECEIVE SEEDS AND PLANTS...WHEREVER SIMPLE PEOPLE HAVE FOUND THEM **HELPFUL AS MEDICINE!**

DO YOU MEAN THAT YOU DOCTORS CAN GAIN KNOWLEDGE FROM THAT?

SCIENCE HAS MUCH TO LEARN FROM THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIMPLE PEOPLE! COME, I WISH TO SHOW YOU MY **SPECIAL ROOM**...WHERE I GROW RARE PLANTS! AN AGENT FROM **SUMATRA** SENT ME A SEED WHICH WILL **INTEREST** YOU!

THE ROOM WAS HOT AND HUMID REPRODUCING THE CONDITIONS OF TROPICAL CLIMES...

THE SEED CAME FROM HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS...AND IS NOW ALMOST EXTINGUISHED! IT HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TO GROW IT HERE, BUT I HAVE SUCCEEDED BY FEEDING IT **MINUTE TRACES OF DILUTED MANORIC ACID!**

EXTRAORDINARY! BUT WHAT USE IS IT?

THE NATIVES OF THOSE MOUNTAINS ARE ALMOST NEVER ILL...THOUGH THE TROPICS ARE INFESTED WITH DISEASE! THEY MAKE A CERTAIN POWDER FROM **THIS PLANT** TO CURE THEMSELVES! NOW I AM GOING TO **TEST** IT...ON ANIMALS!

WITH HIS USUAL METHODOICAL CARE, DR. ULRICH SET ABOUT HIS TASK, WITH KARL'S ASSISTANCE...

I...I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! THOSE RABBITS WERE ON THE VERGE OF **DEATH** YESTERDAY, AND NOW...

NOW THEY ARE **HEALTHY**...AFTER EATING ONE OF THE PLANTS' PETALS! COME, WE MUST PROCEED TO **FURTHER EXPERIMENTS!**

WEEKS OF PAINSTAKING TRIAL PASSED, UNTIL AT LAST...

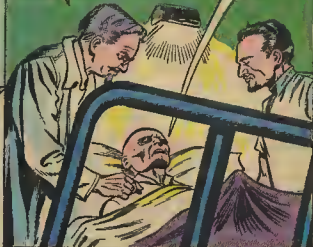
KARL, THE PLANT HAS CURED **EVERYTHING!** THE TIME HAS COME TO TEST A **HUMAN**--AN INCURABLE ONE! I HAVE MADE **PILLS** OF A FEW PETALS! I PROPOSE TO PUT OLD BRUNO TO THE TEST --I HAVE HIS PERMISSION!

I SHALL BE HONORED TO ASSIST YOU, SIR!

OLD BRUNO WAS DYING OF A FATAL AILMENT, DECLARED HOPELESS BY ALL! BUT THAT NIGHT...

TAKE THIS PILL, BRUNO! I DON'T OFFER YOU MUCH HOPE, BUT...

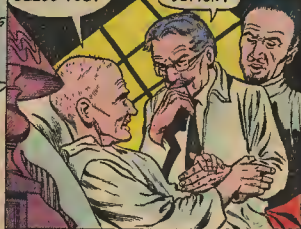
A DROWNING MAN... WILL GRASP... AT ANY STRAW...!



FOR TWO DAYS THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE PATIENT'S CONDITION. BUT ON THE THIRD DAY'S VISIT...

DOCTOR! YOU HAVE CURED ME! BLESS YOU!

GOOD HEAVENS, HE HAS TAKEN A TURN FOR THE BETTER... MUCH BETTER!



AFTERWARDS...

YOU... YOU MEAN YOU ARE GOING TO GIVE AWAY THIS SECRET? ARE YOU MAO? YOU CAN MAKE MILLIONS!

IF YOU WERE A PHYSICIAN, YOU'D REALIZE THAT IT'S A GREAT PROFESSION--WHICH DOESN'T TRAFFIC IN THE SUFFERINGS OF MANKIND! LEAVE ME. I MUST PREPARE A STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS!



THE KIND OLD MAN WROTE FEVERISHLY FAR INTO THE NIGHT! BUT THE EXCITEMENT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIS OLD HEART...

MY NAME SHALL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS A BENEFACTOR! OH--M-MY HEART...

IT WAS KARL WHO FOUND DR. ULRICH'S BODY NEXT MORNING, AND HIS NIMBLE BRAIN WAS QUICK TO PERCEIVE THE BOON THAT HAD BEFALLEN HIM...

BUT FOR THIS STATEMENT, NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT THE SUMATRAN SEED! I NEED ONLY REMOVE THE PLANT TO MY OWN QUARTERS --AND I'LL FIND SOME METHOD TO TURN IT TO MY OWN USE!

That night...

THE TEMPERATURE WITHIN THE GLASS CASE IS PERFECT...AND WITH ULRICH'S DIARIES HERE, I CAN REPRODUCE THE EXACT CONCENTRATION OF MANORIC ACID! FROM THIS MOMENT, MY LIFE BEGINS ANEW!





KEEPING THE SECRET TO HIMSELF, KARL BECAME WHAT HE TERMED A "PHILOSOPHICAL HEALER"---OFFERING "ADVICE" ONLY---YET ACCOMPLISHING IMPOSSIBLE CURES! CLIENTS FLOCKED FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD---

SHOW THE COUNTESS IN NEXT, PLEASE!

YES, HERR KASTORP!

THEY COULD ONLY RECALL CONVERSATION---AND ATTRIBUTED THEIR RECOVERIES TO HIS MAGNETIC PERSONALITY! THEY DIDN'T REALIZE THAT HE HAD APPLIED WILLY HYPNOSIS, UNDER WHICH THEY WERE GIVEN SUMATRAN PILLS---

IT'S AMAZING! I DIDN'T THINK I HAD A CHANCE--- BUT LOOK AT ME NOW! ...YOU HAVEN'T AS YET TOLD ME WHAT YOUR FEE IS, HERR KASTORP!

I THOUGHT YOU HAD BEST BE BETTER PREPARED! YOU'LL FIND IT--- EXPENSIVE!

SOON KARL BOUGHT A GREAT MANSION AND LIVED IN REGAL STYLE! HE HAD MADE A SENSATIONAL NAME FOR HIMSELF, BUT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION WASN'T CONVINCED---



IN HEAVEN'S NAME, MAN, HOW DO YOU DO IT?

WHY WON'T YOU BELIEVE IN MY BRILLIANCE, PROFESSOR SCHLAUCH?

I KNEW YOU AT THE UNIVERSITY, KARL... YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! IF YOU HAVE STUMBLED ON SOME SECRET, WHY WON'T YOU SPEAK? THINK OF ALL THE SUFFERING PEOPLE WHO CAN'T AFFORD YOUR EXPENSIVE SERVICES! WHATEVER YOUR METHOD IS, IT SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION... FOR THE GOOD OF ALL!



PLEASE, HERR PROFESSOR, YOU ARE BEING TIRE SOME!

YOU CALL THESE ETHICS, MORALS? SOMEPAY YOU'LL SUFFER FOR YOUR WRONGDOING--- AND NO SUFFERING CAN BE TOO GREAT!

HOW DARE YOU INSULT ME IN MY OWN HOME? YOU'D BETTER GO!



IN KARL'S PALATIAL RESIDENCE, THERE WAS A ROOM SHUT OFF FROM ALL THE SERVANTS, WHICH THEY DARED NOT ENTER---

WOULDN'T YOU PERMIT ME AT LEAST TO CLEAN UP IN THERE, HERR KASTORP?

IF I EVEN CATCH YOU NEAR IT, YOU WILL BE INSTANTLY DISMISSED!

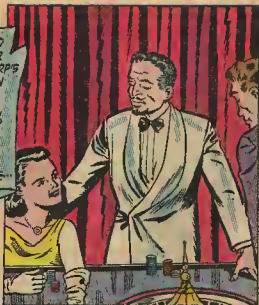


THE MOST EXACTING ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS WERE MAINTAINED WITHIN THE SEALED ROOM... DUPLICATING THE SUMATRAN MOUNTAINS! KARL HAD SUCCEEDED IN ROOTING CUTTINGS OF THE STRANGE PLANT, AND NOW HAD A LARGE COLLECTION---

UNFORTUNATE THAT THEY MUST HAVE THIS ACID EVERY OTHER DAY... I CANNOT EVER LEAVE VIENNA FOR LONG! BUT IT IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY---



YEARS PASSED, AND WHILE HERR KARL KASTORP'S REPUTATION BECAME WORLDWIDE, HE REMAINED IN VIENNA, LEADING A RIGIDOUS EXISTENCE...



HIS BANK ACCOUNT GREW SWOLLEN, BUT STILL HE MINISTERED ONLY TO THOSE WITH MONEY...

THIS IS AN URGENT LETTER FROM THE SULTAN RASHNAMIRA! HE PLEADS WITH YOU TO COME HEAL HIS WIFE... THAT HE WILL PAY ANYTHING!

TELL HIM TO BRING HER HERE! YOU KNOW I NEVER LEAVE VIENNA!



HERR KASTORP, IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO ASK... BUT WILL YOU NEVER TEACH YOUR METHODS TO THE DOCTORS, WHO SHOULD KNOW THEM... SO THAT EVERYONE MAY PROFIT BY YOUR GREAT KNOWLEDGE?

I HAVE NO WISH TO DIVULGE MY SECRETS!



THREE DAYS LATER...

THE FOOD AND WINE WERE EXCELLENT! NOW ORDER MY CAR...

VERY GOOD, SIR!



KARL FELL WEARILY INTO THE REAR OF HIS GREAT LIMOUSINE, UNAWARE THAT IT WAS NOT HIS CHAUFFEUR WHO DROVE IT...

TAKE ME DIRECTLY HOME! I AM SLEEPY...



IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE CAR PULLED TO A SUDDEN HALT ALONG A QUIET ROAD THAT HE BECAME ALERT...

WHAT THE... WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WE ARE IN THE EMPLOY OF THE SULTAN RASHNAMIRA! HIS WIFE IS VERY ILL... SHE CANNOT BE MOVED! YOU MUST COME IMMEDIATELY! A PLANE IS WAITING!



AT A NEARBY PRIVATE AIRFIELD...

BUT I CAN'T LEAVE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE! I MUST CALL MY HOME!

THE SULTANA IS DYING, HERR KASTORP! IT IS YOUR DUTY TO MAKE ALL HASTE! YOU CAN CALL FROM THE PALACE!



AS THE PLANE STREAKED TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST, KARL'S MIND WORKED WITH LIGHTNING SPEED...

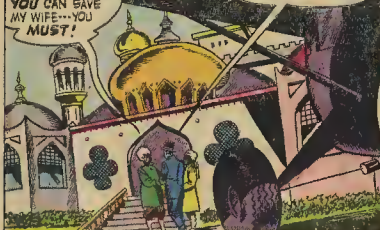
FORTUNATE THAT I ALWAYS CARRY THIS SUPPLY ON MY PERSON... IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH! BUT I WILL HAVE TO SPEAK TO THE HOUSEKEEPER ABOUT THE PLANTS... THEY MUST BE FED REGULARLY, AT ALL COSTS!



AFTER A SWIFT JOURNEY...

AKHERR KASTORP...
**YOU CAN SAVE
MY WIFE...YOU
MUST!**

I WILL DO MY BEST...
BUT FIRST, I MUST MAKE
A CALL TO VIENNA!



**FEVERISHLY, KARL WAITED FOR THE CONNECTION
TO GO THROUGH! AT LAST...**

**YES! THIS IS I--HERR KASTORP! LISTEN
I HAVE CERTAIN PLANTS IN THE CLOSED
ROOM UPSTAIRS...THEY MUST BE FED EVERY
OTHER DAY! YOU WILL FIND A SOLUTION OF
DILUTE MANORIC ACID...USE ONE**

**LITRE PER
PLANT! YES!
WITHOUT
FAIL!**



**RELIEVED, KARL NOW TOOK CHARGE OF HIS
PATIENT...**

IT IS **HOPELESS**, EVEN FOR A MAN
WHO HAS BECOME A LIVING **LEGEND**.
HERR KASTORP! IF YOU WERE A DOCTOR, I'D
GIVE YOU THE PATHOLOGY...

WHAT DO I CARE FOR PATHOLOGY
...I WHO AM A **PHILOSOPHICAL
HEALER**? LEAVE US...I MUST
ATTEMPT TO CONVERSE WITH
MY NEW CLIENT...



**HE HAD TO BE ALONE WITH HER
IF HIS CURE WERE TO BE KEPT
SECRET...**

BUT SIR, ISN'T SHE...
TOO FAR GONE TO
TALK?

SHE'LL
HAVE HER STRONGER
MOMENTS, AND THEN I
MUST SPEAK WITH HER...
IN PRIVATE!



**ALONE, HE SWIFTLY ADMINISTERED A SUMATRAN
PILL TO THE UNCONSCIOUS WOMAN! BUT ALL THAT
IT DID WAS RESTORE CONSCIOUSNESS--AND IN
THE ENSUING DAYS, AS SHE HOVERED ON THE BRINK
OF DEATH...**

**YOU WILL TAKE THIS PILL
...AND YOU WILL FORGET
THAT YOU EVER DID SO!
ALL YOU WILL REMEMBER
IS THE SOOTHING SOUND
OF MY VOICE...**



**AS HIS SUPPLY OF PILLS RAN OUT, THE STRAIN
BEGAN TO TELL! KARL FELL VICTIM TO STRANGE
PAINS AND HEADACHES, AND HE COULD NOT
PARRY THE QUESTIONS OF THE
DOCTORS...**

WHAT ARE YOU **DOING** FOR HER,
KASTORP? IF THERE'S SOME NEW
TREATMENT, WHY SHOULDN'T WE
KNOW? IT'S THE PROVINCE OF
MEDICINE...AND IT SHOULD BE
FOR THE GOOD OF **ALL!**

I...AM **TIRED**,
GENTLEMEN!
PLEASE, I
MUST REST...
I DON'T FEEL
WELL!



THE SULTANA FELL INTO A COMA...

I HAVE GIVEN HER THE **LAST
PILL**...I CAN DO NO MORE!
SHE **MUST** RECOVER, OR MY
REPUTATION WILL BE RUINED!
NOW I MUST REST MYSELF!

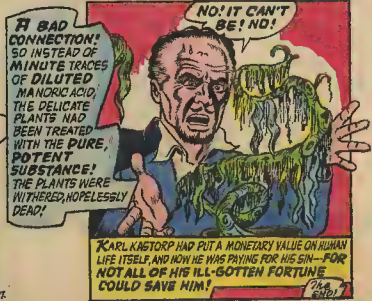
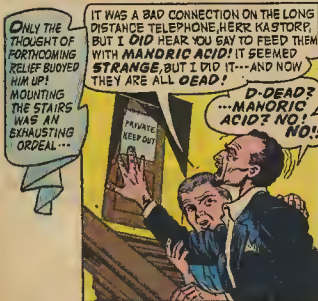
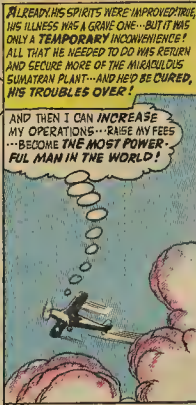
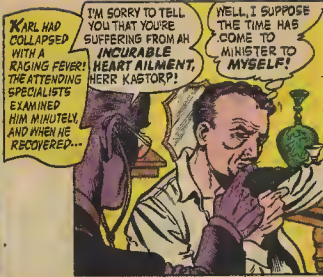


**HE WAS AWAKENED FROM A LONG,
FITFUL SLEEP...**

**HERR KASTORP! WAKE UP! MY
WIFE...THE DANGER IS
PAST! THERE IS COLOR
IN HER CHEEKS! SHE
IS GOING TO BE
WELL!**

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